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December 10, 1980

E-382

Dear Senator Chiles:

I am responding to your letter of November 13 enclosing correspondence from Yuli Kitaevich concerning Raoul Wallenberg (SF 2-77).

The United States Government has been concerned over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg since the case first came to light at the end of World War II. We have taken every appropriate opportunity to ask Soviet authorities for a clarification on the Wallenberg case. When recent reports came to light which we hoped might indicate the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions throughout 1979. They finally answered, formally and in writing, in February of this year, stating that Wallenberg had died in July of 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and they indicated that they would have no further information on Wallenberg in the future.

There is no question, however, that the Wallenberg case remains a concern for all who value human rights. It is therefore appropriate that the case of Raoul Wallenberg be brought to the attention of the participants at the CSCE Review Conference now underway in Madrid. Since the Government of Sweden has a primary interest in the Wallenberg case due to Wallenberg's Swedish nationality, the United States delegation to the Conference has been cooperating with Sweden in this regard. I am pleased to say that in his opening statement at the Conference, Swedish Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten brought the Wallenberg case to the attention of the Conference. More recently, on November 21, Swedish delegation chairman Rappe urged renewed efforts to resolve the Wallenberg case. It is our intention to continue to cooperate with Sweden throughout the duration of the Conference and on every appropriate occasion. Let me assure you, we will continue to express our concern for Raoul Wallenberg, for Jan Kaplan, and for all those who have suffered for their commitment to the principle of human rights.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

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Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.

Honorable
Senator Chiles.

IS/FPC/CDR Date: 12/12/80

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